

Bristol June 1 - 1855.
Dear Friends
How glad will we all be to receive
your kind & welcome news. But
how can I reconcile myself to leaving
your various letters, (teeming with interest,
instruction, & regard,) unanswered week
after week. After I resolve that the next
American mail shall not start without
leaving the bearer of a few words of grateful
apologetic recognition of your undeserved
favors, - even tho' I sh'd sit up all night in
order to pen them. But the weeks begin to
end, each day having been crowded with
so many efforts, as strength admitted, often
more, & leaving a whole accumulation
of ever increasing arrears. You have heard
about us Mrs' dear Mr Chapman, whose
visit was like a draught of pure oxygen
reviving body & spirit. I can't describe to you
the delight it was to us to have her here
in the same quiet way in which she came,
in spite of her finding us both rather
unusually poorly we contrived to talk
over a great many subjects of common interest
were brought near to each other, as we had
not been for the last three years more. You
came in for a full share of our affectionate

mention, from Mr. C. you will have heard enough of the general aspect of our lives to make you understand the waiting & watching & "helping to do nothing" business which is my daily portion, to make you pardon my neglect of you during the last few months. Every line you write me is so suggestive, & awakens such responsive chords, that I often sigh for a mental daguerreotype machine to record my spiritual communion with you! Having ^{now} come to such a thorough bankruptcy it is hopeless to advert to each separate debt. Your Anti-slavery news is duly prized & circulated, (~~not in~~ⁱⁿ a way that you object to, but purely in its Anti-slavery capacity, in the shape of extracts written or read aloud.) The private portions of your letters are ~~read~~^{by} upon ~~in~~ private, & respond to in our own hearts. You hint in your letter to my Aunt that you may have repelled me by your censure of irreproachable disquietude at the news of your sister's illness some months ago! Indeed, dear Annie, I am not so self-righteous as to esteem myself the more & you the less for ^{the circumstances of} my being blessed with less excitability of temperament than your own the discipline of my life having been such a

as to insure me to the prospect of trial & separation, as well as to extinguish hope in any form of temporal happiness. These accidents in my condition do but add to my responsibility & make me regard with admiration in you the ^{anamony} of the incompletely struggle after ^{but} ⁱⁿ resignation which my tutoring has perfected in me. I know not your conflicts between Theoretical & Practical faith, the first lead naturally to the second in my case, my Father & I are never able to withdraw our gaze from the impending separation & death which may at any hour fall upon us; the present tho' calm & abounding in heavenly mercies is never unalloyed by physical ailments ^{by its} & the somewhat melancholy contrast with the past: while no ray of light shines on our earthly future, every change must be a stride towards the grave on my Father's part, an increase of arduous endeavour to ^{lighten the burthen of} ~~clear~~ his additional infirmities on mine, I can breathe no prayer for his protracted sojourn on earth, while the grasshopper daily becomes a heavier burden to him, nor can I ^{desire} ~~want~~

to accelerate any more than to retard
his departure from the world he still
gladdens with his presence, & serves by
his counsel. As little can I forward or
of my own life apart from him, or longer
with respecting it. And yet I have no
solicitude whatever. The promises have
never yet failed us & I am as much per-
suaded that they never will, as that I
shall live again. I know that as in the
past trial, so in every future emergency,
sufficient unto one day will be our strength.
You led me into this strain dear Anna
by your observation to my Aunt, forgive
its egotistical character. Your views &
fighting interest me as well as those on re-
lation, from their giving ^{another} indication of the
contrast there is between us. You "believe
in peace & yet sympathise with fighting;" I believe
in peace & therefore have no sympathy what-
ever with anything pertaining to war. I know
that out of man's evil God educates good, & there-
fore I have faith that all the butchery in
going forward ^{now} will help on some victory
of a righteous principle, & that ^{thus perhaps} in some way
a door may be opened for the oppressed not
of Europe to regain their freedom. But ignorant
as I am of the means by which this much
to be desired and will be brought about I can
awaken in myself any enthusiasm or sympa-

2.

in the war. The rulers of all, who are taking part in the struggle, ^{are} ~~want~~ care more for themselves than for their neighbours, & their aristocratic predilections make them unconcerned for the wrongs of Hungary, Poland, or Italy. The conservative spirit predominates, & I suspect the English government ~~would~~ greatly prefer seeing the Czar conquer, to these ill-used states regaining their liberties. I cannot therefore feel any satisfaction in the immediate issue of any battles in the Crimea, nor in the ascendancy of one power & defeat of the other. Moreover I have no faith in the permanence of apparent good which is attained by bloodshed & violence, or any temporary measures, tho' I can & do believe that ultimately these things may be proved stepping stones to some ^{good end.} ~~heavy & melancholy scenes~~. All you tell

us of Mr. Stowe is interesting & useful. We quite understand her position, but the British public do not, & her name can ^{therefore} be used by people like Mr. Cuthbert Young, to the great injury of the cause. We have no wish to publish anything about Mr. Stowe or Mr. A. W. Beecher's relation to the Am. Board of Missions unless they would give a direct disclaimer of the "endorsement" of it which Mr. Young has put into their mouths. Such a contradiction from Mr. Stone would be of immense service, in thwarting Mr. G.'s unprincipled proceedings. How admirably you describe Mr. Pillsbury in your letter to my Aunt! He is as you say too good, & too diffident to deal with people of the world. His extreme sensitiveness & his

peculiar temperament, are great drawbacks to his comfort & his usefulness in ^{his} unavoidable collision with different classes of minds, This contact with persons in various circles of social life & degree of mental cultivation. No one can be a more instructive or delightful companion than he when he feels himself entirely at home in a congenial atmosphere. He ^{then} ~~calls~~ ^{shines} out love & sympathy to a remarkable degree but if he takes a notion that his companions are narrow-minded, illiberal, or factious, he locks himself up from them, & does all he can to avoid them instead of trying to enlighten them. This refers of course to personal intercourse. In anti-slavery circles & in public addresses he has ^{always} ~~shone~~ ^{brightly} & ~~been~~ ^{always} most acceptable & happy in his mode of presenting the cause. His estimate of his services is not lessened since my Aunt wrote to you, on the contrary, he has been doing good seed from that day to this, which is springing up in Liverpool, Warrington, Manchester, Dublin, Belfast, Edinburgh, Leeds, &c. &c. The friends he has made in those places all want ^{another} visit from him. His health does not I fear from the tone of his letters, improve materially but the weather has been sadly against him. He has now just started for a months tour in Germany, &c. in company with Bishop. The Standardists are of the party as far as Kreuznach on the Rhine. I never knew anyone less able to adapt himself to the idiosyncrasies of his hearers or correspondent ~~and~~ than Mr P. He addresses the image in his own mind which may or may not be a portrait of the actual person with whom he is dealing. Generally speaking his conceptions seem to me inaccurate his vivid imagination leading him to exaggerations & extremes. He gave Mr Chamberlain a great disadvantage by answering a hypocritical letter from the latter according to what he considered its spirit & concealed purpose, instead of